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111257Z Mar 02

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ1217

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ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00
EB-00 VC-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 L-00
VCE-00 M-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 OPIC-01
PA-00 PC-01 PM-00 PRS-00 ACE-00 P-00 SP-00
SSO-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00
DRL-02 G-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 SWCI-00 /009W
-----7280C2 111350Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1172
INFO OAU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 000640

SIPDIS

PRETORIA FOR A/S KANSTEINER

NSC FOR JENDAYI FRAZER

AF FOR PDAS BELLAMY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/07

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE: PRELIMINARY VOTING STATISTICS FAVOR
MUGABE

REF: HARARE 416

CLASSIFIED BY POL TDY AARON TARVER, REASON: 1.5 (B)
AND (D).

11. (C) SUMMARY. BASED ON OFFICIAL STATISTICS RELEASED
THUS FAR (WHICH WE HAVE NO WAY TO VERIFY), WE EXPECT
ZANU-PF TO CLAIM VICTORY IN THE 2002 PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS. TURNOUT TO DATE, EVEN IN AREAS WHERE VOTING
HAS BEEN TRUNCATED, HAS EXCEEDED JUNE 2000 LEVELS IN ALL
PROVINCES SAVE BULAWAYO. NEVERTHELESS, IT APPEARS LESS
THAN 60 PERCENT OF THOSE REGISTERED IN JANUARY TURNED UP
TO VOTE, AND AS WE PREDICTED EARLIER, A LOWER TURNOUT
FAVORS ZANU-PF. VOTER INCREASES FROM THE 2000
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WERE HIGHEST IN ZANU-PF
STRONGHOLDS IN MASHONALAND, LIKELY SUPPLEMENTED BY ZANU-
PF'S LAST-MINUTE REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN. HIGH TURNOUTS
IN MANICALAND AND MASVINGO MAY PRESENT THE ONLY REAL
WILD CARD. SIX MONTHS OF CONTINUOUS VIOLENCE AND
INTIMIDATION, COUPLED WITH THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY
URBAN VOTERS, ARE THE ONLY REASONABLE EXPLANATIONS FOR
THE RELATIVELY LOW TURNOUT. END SUMMARY.

NUMBERS FAVOR MUGABE AND ZANU-PF

12. (C) OFFICIAL VOTING STATISTICS RELEASED THUS FAR
IMPLY FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE RULING ZANU-PF TO
DECLARE VICTORY ONCE VOTING HAS CONCLUDED IN THE MARCH
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. THE STATISTICS, BY PROVINCE,
ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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PROVINCE	VOTES IN 2000	VOTES CAST IN 2002**	PERCENTAGE OF 2000	
BULAWAYO	171,669	169,000	98%	
HARARE*	394,073	415,000	105%	
MANICALAND	272,909	363,000	133%	
MASHONALAND CENTRAL	247,953	331,000	133%	
MASHONALAND EAST	278,221	328,000	118%	
MASHONALAND WEST	246,783	293,000	119%	
MASVINGO	286,741	380,000	133%	
MATEBELELAND NORTH	147,828	157,000	106%	
MATEBELELAND SOUTH	159,579	165,000	103%	
MIDLANDS	350,505	379,000	108%	

PROVINCE	VOTERS REGISTERED	VOTES CAST IN 2002**	PERCENTAGE
BULAWAYO	368,028	169,000	46%
HARARE***	882,176	415,000	47%
MANICALAND	658,694	363,000	55%
MASHONALAND CENTRAL	480,092	331,000	69%
MASHONALAND EAST	589,185	328,000	56%
MASHONALAND WEST	572,677	293,000	51%
MASVINGO	655,122	380,000	58%

MATEBELELAND NORTH	338,188	157,000	46%
MATEBELELAND SOUTH	343,993	165,000	48%
MIDLANDS	724,659	379,000	52%

* INCLUDES CHITUNGWIZA.

** THROUGH MARCH 10 AT 5 P.M.
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*** VOTING CONTINUES HAPHAZARDLY.

13. (C) WE PREDICTED THAT WITH A 60 PERCENT TURNOUT, MDC LEADER MORGAN TSVANGIRAI WOULD WIN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, ALBEIT BY A NARROW MARGIN. NUMBERS DO NOT QUITE REACH THAT PERCENTAGE LEVEL, HOWEVER. CURRENT NUMBERS SHOW SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 53% OF REGISTERED VOTERS TURNED OUT OVER THE WEEKEND THROUGH 5 P.M. ON MARCH 10.

HIGHER PERCENTAGES IN ZANU-PF STRONGHOLDS

14. (C) MORE IMPORTANTLY, FROM THESE NUMBERS, IT APPEARS THAT THE HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUTS OCCURRED IN TRADITIONAL ZANU-PF STRONGHOLDS, THE MASHONALAND PROVINCES. EACH PROVINCE HAD WELL OVER 50% OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS TURN OUT, FOR AN OVERALL VOTING TURNOUT AVERAGE OF 58% OF TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS. MOREOVER, THE MASHONALAND PROVINCES EXPERIENCED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN OVERALL VOTERS, APPROXIMATELY 179,000 VOTERS. WE ATTRIBUTE THIS INCREASE TO ONE OR BOTH OF TWO FACTORS: 1) A SUCCESSFUL EFFORT BY ZANU-PF TO GET OUT LOYAL SUPPORTERS, AND 2) STUFFED BALLOT BOXES BY THE RULING PARTY IN THIS LARGELY NO-GO AREA FOR THE MDC.

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00
	VCE-00	M-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/009W	

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O 111257Z MAR 02
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1173
INFO OAU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 HARARE 000640

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TURNOUT IN MDC STRONGHOLDS LOWER THAN EXPECTED

15. (C) THE MOST SURPRISING THING REFLECTED IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS IS THE LOWER-THAN-EXPECTED TURNOUT IN EXPECTED MDC STRONGHOLDS, ESPECIALLY IN BULAWAYO, THE ONLY PLACE WHERE VOTER TURNOUT IS LOWER THAN IN THE JUNE 2000 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. WE EXPECT THAT ONCE VOTING RECOMMENCES IN HARARE, THOSE NUMBERS WILL HEAVILY FAVOR THE MDC. PRESENTLY, OVERALL VOTER TURNOUT IN MDC STRONGHOLDS IS AROUND 48.36%, WELL BELOW THAT PROJECTED. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THIS DECLINE IS EXPLAINED BY THE GOZ DECISION TO PROVIDE A REDUCED NUMBER OF POLLING PLACES IN A COMPLEX DOUBLE AND TRIPLE-TIER ELECTION.

MASVINGO AND MANICALAND ONLY WILDCARDS

16. (C) THE ONLY OTHER PROVINCES WITH MORE THAN 50 PERCENT VOTER TURNOUT WAS IN MANICALAND AND MASVINGO, WHERE 55% AND 58%, RESPECTIVELY, OF THOSE REGISTERED TURNED OUT TO VOTE. MANICALAND SPLITS APPROXIMATELY 60-40 FAVORING THE MDC OVER THE RULING ZANU-PF. THE ZANU-

PF CANNOT AT PRESENT LAY CLAIM TO ITS HISTORICAL
STRONGHOLD IN MASVINGO HOWEVER, DUE TO THE WELL-
PUBLICIZED DISPUTE BETWEEN ZANU-PF STRONGMAN EDDISON
ZVOBGO AND PRESIDENT MUGABE. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS
THAT ZVOBGO ENERGIZED HIS SUPPORTERS TO GET OUT AND
VOTE, BUT FOR TSVANGIRAI INSTEAD OF MUGABE. EVEN SO,
ZVOBGO NEVER EXPECTED THE MDC TO DO MORE THAN SPLIT THE
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MASVINGO VOTE.

COMMENT

17. (C) IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO PREDICT A WINNER, AS
VOTING CONTINUES IN HARARE AND CHITUNGWIZA. IT IS ALSO
IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THESE NUMBERS ARE BASED ON
OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FIGURES, WHICH MAY DIFFER VASTLY
FROM THE REAL VOTER TURNOUT. THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH
THESE STATISTICAL RELEASES AND INFORMATION MINISTER
JONATHAN MOYO'S ANALYSES ON RADIO, HAS SOUGHT TO BUILD
EXPECTATIONS FOR A LARGE RURAL AND SMALL URBAN TURNOUT.
OUR TEAMS NOTICED MASSIVE VOTER TURNOUTS IN MDC
STRONGHOLDS ON MARCH 9, WHICH RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
RELIABILITY OF THE GOZ DATA. NEVERTHELESS, SHOULD THE
DATA HOLD UP ON FURTHER REVIEW, IT APPEARS THAT THE
GOZ'S 6 MONTH CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION,
COUPLED WITH THE CALCULATED CONFUSION WROUGHT BY
DECREASING URBAN POLLING STATIONS, INCREASING RURAL
STATIONS, AND CONFLICTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE VOTER
ROLLS, HAS PROVEN SUCCESSFUL.

SULLIVAN

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